

CONFIDENTIALMay 15th, 1959COCOM Document No. 3527COORDINATING COMMITTEERECORD OF DISCUSSION

4231696

ONUNITED KINGDOM PROPOSAL TO EXPORT COBALT OXIDE TO POLANDMay 11th and 12th, 1959

Present: Belgium (Luxembourg), Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States.

Reference: COCOM 3501.

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to the United Kingdom proposal to export five tons of cobalt oxide to Poland. He invited Delegates to give the views of their authorities.
2. The NETHERLANDS Delegate said that his authorities considered five tons of cobalt oxide to be a large quantity especially as the amount of metal which could be derived from it amounted to about 70% which was far above the cut-off laid down in Item 1720. Commenting on the United Kingdom comparison between the proposed export and total annual consumption in the United Kingdom, the Delegate said that it was extremely hard to evaluate the strategic value by comparison with domestic use. Because of the Committee's special Polish policy, his authorities would raise no objection to this export provided no other Member of the Committee objected to it.
3. The BELGIAN Delegate said that his authorities had no objection to this export in view of the position they had adopted at the last review. He hoped that the Committee would give sympathetic consideration to a similar request if one were submitted by his own authorities.
4. The FRENCH Delegate said that his authorities did not object to this export because of the Committee's special policy towards Poland. He endorsed the remark made by his Belgian colleague concerning similar submissions.
5. The DANISH, JAPANESE and UNITED STATES Delegates raised no objection to this export.
6. The GERMAN Delegate said that his authorities were in a somewhat difficult position. They were reluctant to agree to the United Kingdom request because, aware of the tough redefinition discussion on cobalt, they had recently refused an application from a German exporter concerning the same quantity of cobalt oxide for the same destination. The German authorities would be placed in an embarrassing position if it were known that another Member Country had authorised a similar export. They would, however, reconsider their position provided there were no objections from other Members of the Committee. Finally the Delegate subscribed to the remarks made by his Belgian colleague on similar requests.
7. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate expressed his thanks for the favourable replies which had been given.
8. On May 12th the GERMAN Delegation informed the Secretariat that their authorities raised no objection to the United Kingdom proposal. They hoped that the Committee would give sympathetic consideration to a similar request if one were submitted by their own authorities.